

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1.     A method of making a composite panel comprising:  
2                   providing a formable sheet having at least one layer;  
3                   locating the formable sheet adjacent to a forming surface;  
4                   making a formed sheet by conforming the formable sheet to the  
5                   forming surface so that a characterizing topography projects from the formable  
6                   sheet;  
7                   removing the formed sheet from the forming surface;  
8                   providing a substrate having a front surface, a rear surface, and an  
9                   opening therethrough; and  
10                  attaching the formed sheet to the rear surface of the substrate so that  
11                  the characterizing topography appears through the opening.
- 1                   2.     The method of claim 1 wherein the substrate further comprises  
2                   a plurality of bosses extending from the rear surface.
- 1                   3.     The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:  
2                   forming a plurality of openings through the formed sheet before the  
3                   formed sheet is attached to the substrate.
- 1                   4.     The method of claim 3 wherein the step of attaching the  
2                   formed sheet to the substrate comprises placing the formed sheet on the substrate so  
3                   that at least one of the plurality of bosses extends through one of the plurality of  
4                   openings.
- 1                   5.     The method of claim 4 wherein the step of attaching the  
2                   formed sheet to the substrate further comprises the step of:  
3                   heat staking the bosses extending through the holes in the formed  
4                   sheet.

1                   6.     The method of claim 4 wherein the step of attaching the  
2     formed sheet to the substrate further comprises the step of:  
3                   upsetting the bosses extending through the openings in the formed  
4     sheet.

1                   7.     The method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching the  
2     formed sheet to the substrate further comprises applying adhesive to a portion of at  
3     least one of the formed sheet and substrate.

1                   8.     The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing a  
2     formable sheet comprises the step of providing a sheet with at least one simulated  
3     wood grain layer.

1                   9.     The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing a  
2     formable sheet comprises the step of providing a sheet with at least one decorative  
3     layer.

1                   10.    The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
2                   trimming the formed sheet before attaching the formed sheet to the  
3     substrate.

1                   11.    A composite panel comprising:  
2                   a substrate having a front and a rear surface, an opening  
3     therethrough;  
4                   an insert panel having a characterizing topography extending  
5     therefrom;  
6                   wherein the insert panel is located on the rear surface of the substrate  
7     so that the characterizing topography appears through the opening; and  
8                   means to secure the insert panel to the substrate.

1                   12.    The composite panel of claim 11 wherein the substrate further  
2     comprises a plurality of bosses extending from the back surface, the insert panel

3 further comprises a plurality of openings on the flat plane corresponding to the  
4 bosses, and wherein the insert panel is placed on the substrate so that at least one of  
5 the plurality of bosses extends through at least one of the plurality of openings.

1 13. The composite panel of claim 12 wherein the means for  
2 securing the insert panel to the substrate comprises a mechanical lock formed in the  
3 bosses extending through the openings.

1 14. The composite panel of claim 13 wherein the mechanical lock  
2 is formed by means for heat staking the bosses that extend through the openings.

1 15. The composite panel of claim 13 wherein the mechanical lock  
2 is formed by means for upsetting the bosses that extend through the openings.

1 16. The composite panel of claim 11 wherein means for securing  
2 the insert panel to the substrate comprise adhesive applied to a portion of at least one  
3 of the insert panel or substrate.

1 17. The composite panel of claim 11 wherein the insert panel  
2 comprises a plurality of layers.

1 18. The composite panel of claim 17 wherein one or more of the  
2 layers has a wood grain finish.

1 19. A method of making a composite panel comprising:  
2 providing a formable sheet having at least one layer;  
3 locating the formable sheet adjacent a forming surface;  
4 making a formed sheet by conforming the formable sheet to the  
5 forming surface so that a characterizing form projects from the formable sheet and  
6 by forming a tab extending from the formed sheet;  
7 removing the formed sheet from the forming surfaces;  
8 providing a substrate having a front surface, a rear surface, and a tab  
9 opening therethrough; and

10 attaching the formed sheet to the substrate so that at least one tab  
11 extends through the tab opening to secure the formed panel to the substrate.

1 20. A composite panel comprising:  
2 a substrate having a front and a rear surface;  
3 at least one tab opening extending therethrough;  
4 an insert panel having a characterizing topography and at least one  
5 tab extending therefrom;  
6 wherein the insert panel is placed on the front surface of the substrate  
7 and the tab extends through the tab opening to secure the insert panel to the  
8 substrate.